

Annual Report of Activities 2022-23

It is my utmost privilege to present the annual report activities of the Child Aid Association for the financial year 2022-2023. With Covid 19 restrictions behind us we were able to get back into the normal routine of meetings in person. This year a total number of 12 Executive meetings, 2 administrative committee, 3 renovation committee meetings and 6 fund raising committee meetings were held. The Annual General meeting was held on 29th October, 2022. Total number of registered cases this year was 450, patients seen during the year were 6160, number of patients who went off treatment was 49 and number of deaths was 37. This year our major project was to undertake the renovation of the Oncology Unit according to International standards. The renovation committee headed by Mr. Tariq Siddiqui and comprising Mr. Tariq Shafi, Mr. Khaleeq ur Rehman, Mr. Farooq Zaman, Dr. Salman Bumey and Dr. Nasir Saddal were active in getting the project underway at the earliest. The work is ongoing at present and we are expecting completion of this project by end of the year.

Another important initiative taken this year was by our Executive committee member Dr. Zeba Batool Attar who started the Morbidity and Mortality meetings from April '22, and till June '23 around 14 M & M meetings were held. These have proved highly useful in studying cases and highlighting issues faced by both the Oncology unit and the management helping to resolve them as best possible.

In July 2022 we purchased a portable X ray machine (Electron, Korea) for the Oncology unit at a cost of Rs.2.7 million. This will greatly facilitate our neutropenic patients, saving them the inconvenience of being taken to Radiology department of NICH and most importantly will help in infection control as exposure to hospital acquired infections will be less.

On 14th August '22 Independence Day celebrations were organized in ward by our social workers where children took part in a cake cutting ceremony and gifts were distributed among them.

The month of September is globally designated by Childhood Cancer International and International Society of Pediatric Oncology to raise awareness about Childhood cancer, better known as Gold September with the golden ribbon representing it. Various activities took place through out to raise awareness about Childhood cancer. A program was organized where off-treatment patients and their parents were invited to share the hardships they faced during their child's illness and the treatment received at the oncology unit.

The Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday October 29th '22 and executive as well as members of Child Aid association attended the session.

The International Cancer Day was observed on February 15th '23 and activities with patients were organized.

As regards upgrading of genetics laboratory, the team of JSMUAANA visited the Cytogenetic Laboratory of Child Aid Association. The inauguration of the Molecular Genetic Laboratory took place on Saturday 4th March, 2023 under the Executive Director JSMUAANA Dr. Rizwan Naeem, President JSMUAANA Dr. Younis M. Ismail and Vice Chancellor JSMU Prof. Dr. Amjad Siraj Memon.

On 8th March '23 we received a delegation from the St. Judes Research Hospital led by Ms. Dylan Graetz who is a Clinical Fellow there. She delivered a lecture on Research on 'Qualitative communication in Pediatric cases' which was followed by a visit to the Oncology unit. Her team was greatly impressed by the dedication of staff and the patient's resilience.

In March '23 we also hired Sharafat Consultancy (pvt.) Ltd. to oversee and certify our zakat and donation utilization according to Shariah requirements after which we were issued the Shariah certificate in this month only.

During Ramzan we ran a campaign for zakat and donations appeal, promoting our cause which was run on social and print media. Eid gifts were distributed among children by the Little warriors, a voluntary group run by students.

This June, after a gap of three years post covid, the Students Voluntary community services were resumed. A total of thirty eight students from Habib Girls School, Mama Parsi School, AMI school and DHA CSS College for Women volunteered at the Oncology unit and the Oncology, Cytogenetics and TPN Laboratories.

Also in the month of June a new Head Nurse with international experience was employed. We hope her presence will further improve and raise standards of our Oncology unit.

We are indebted to the Sind Government for their annual grant of 100 million which has helped us hugely in running of our Cancer centre.

We also extend our thanks to Director, NICH Dr. Nasir Saleem Saddal for donation of costly anti-cancer drugs, antibiotics and disposables and his support whenever needed. We are grateful to all our Honorary Consultants who have been a huge support throughout the year. Notably Consultant haematologist Dr. Khalid Zafar Hashmi, Mr. Arshad Warsi for legal advice and our auditors Messrs. Muniff Ziauddin & Co. Chartered accountants for timely completion of our audit.

We also extend appreciation and thanks to all our staff in the Oncology unit as well as in the administration who have worked with dedication throughout the year.



Dr. Salman M. Burney

General Secretary, Child Aid Association